● PRINTER RUSH ●
(PTO ASSISTANCE)

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[RUSH] MESSAGE: _____

Please provide missing Serial No. on page 188,
line 5.

Thumluye

[XRUSH] RESPONSE: _____

DONE

INITIALS:

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REV 10/04

described in the following examples which are in no way intended to limit the scope of the invention.

5.20.   ECL Assays Employing Sonication

The disclosure of commonly-owned copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08932985 entitled **ASSAY SONICATION APPARATUS AND METHODOLOGY** filed on even date herewith is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. In many diagnostic systems wherein binding reactions occur between reagents, improved mixing of the reagents can increase the speed of the reaction. Often, the slow rate of mixing ultimately limits the speed with which a diagnostic test proceeds to completion. Examples of diagnostic assays wherein binding reactions between reagents occur include immunoassays, DNA-probe assays, clinical chemistry tests, receptor-ligand binding assays, and the like. The slow rate of binding kinetics has been an especially limiting constraint in conducting assays that incorporate binding reactions between reagents in solution and reagents present on a solid. Sonication improves the mixing of reagents in solution and the mass transport of reagents in solution to reagents located on or near a surface of a solid. Experiments have proven that sonication of assay reagents dramatically decreases the time required to conduct a binding assay that utilizes a solid-phase support. Sonication is defined to encompass vibration having a frequency between approximately 100 Hz and 10MHz. The frequency of sonication (f_s) can be sub-divided into the following ranges: